DC UNIVERSE™

DC HOLIDAY BASH! II

1998 SPECIAL

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

McDANIEL
NOWLAN
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Make an 8-sided hanging ornament and 2 gliders that really fly!

DC UNIVERSE
DCU HOLIDAY BASH! II

SUNNY BROOK MALL. DECEMBER 24TH, 1997. 7:46 PM.

Gifts FOR DAD

SO YOU CAN MULTI-TASK ON ALL THREE INTERNAL MODEM LINES AT ONCE?

IF YOU'VE GOT THE LINES SET UP LIKE WE DO HERE, YEP, YOU BET!

WAYNE TECH SUPER COMPUTER WT486SC 3000 FAST, FLASHY, FAR-REACHING, AND FUN; EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN HOME COMPUTERS—and a XMAS GIFT! ON SALE HERE

SO I COULD REMOTE-ACCESS AND CONTROL MULTIPLE BIOS SYSTEMS?

OH, YEAH... I... I GUESS SO.

LET'S WRAP THIS UP, FRED. IS HE BUYING OR NOT?

MALL CLOSES IN AN HOUR. I THINK WE ALL WANT TO GET HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.

THIS MALL, FOR INSTANCE. IF I HAD THE RIGHT HACKING CODES, I COULD REPROGRAM THE CENTRAL SYSTEM FROM HERE?

GOOD.

UH... WELL, YOU'D HAVE ENOUGH MEMORY, YEAH, BUT--

TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE HERE, LANTERN?

BELIEVE ME. WHEN I WENT TO JLA HQ, I WAS LOOKING FOR FLASH 'CAUSE-- WELL, FACE IT, IF YOU'RE TALKIN' LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING, HE'S THE GUY YOU WANT ON YOUR TEAM--

Sunny Brook MALL
BIGGEST HOLIDA
IN TOW
SELECTION

The Present

DEVIN K. GRAYSON WRITER
WILLIAM ROSADO Penciller
SAL BUSCEMA inker
LEE LOUGHRIDGE colorist
JOHN COSTANZA letterer

--BUT SINCE YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE *THERE*, ARROW, AND I'M DEALING WITH SUCH A *HUGE* EMERGENCY-- AND YOU *DID* SAY YOU'D HELP ME OUT ANY TIME--

NO. I MEAN TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE *HERE*.

OH! OH, THE *MALL*! RIGHT, SORRY: *SHOPPING!*

DECEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH, EIGHT *PM*, *PANIC* SHOPPING! I'VE STILL GOT OVER HALF THE *JLA* TO GO. IT'S MY FIRST CHRISTMAS AS A LEAGUER. I'VE GOTTA IMPRESS THEM.

BUT I DON'T--

I--

--KNOW MUCH ABOUT CHRISTMAS. THE BUDDHIST THING. I KNOW. S'OKAY-- I'LL EXPLAIN.

Holiday SPECIAL ...all of the other reindeer...

MALL DIRECTORY

WOW! MAN! BUSY! OKAY, OKAY... WHERE'D I PUT THAT LIST...?

WAYNETEC SUPER COMPUTER 3000 ON SALE AT KILLINGER'S DEPT. STORE

HEY! COOL! I THINK BATMAN NEEDS ONE OF THESE?

DON'T PANIC.

YOU'RE RIGHT. NEVER GRAB THE FIRST THING YOU SEE.

NO. I MEAN, I DON'T PANIC... WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU A MINUTE AGO.

I DON'T PANIC.

...used to laugh and call him names!...

VOOMP! KA-TCHHHHH...

...they never let poor Rudolph...

TSSTS TSSTS

...join in any reinduuuu-durrrr-rrrr...

WHAT ON EARTH?

AIEEEEE!

BLACKOUT!

THE LIGHTS!

MOMMY!

THANK GOD THEY TURNED THAT DARN SONG OFF

THEY'RE TRAPPED! THOSE PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED IN THERE!

LET ME OOOOOUUUT!! THERE'S NO AIR!

DON'T PAN-? DON'T PANIC! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

PLEASE DON'T PANIC!

I'M SURE THE GENERATOR, EMERGENCY BACKUP LIGHTS AND VENTILATION WILL COME UP IN JUST A SECOND!

AND IN THE MEANTIME, MAYBE WE CAN ALL REMIND OURSELVES ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS, YOU KNOW, AND UH--

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS, MY FOOT! I WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION!

TOYS

I-JUST-WANT-OOUUUTTT!

HEY NOW, COME ON, MAN! IF WE DON'T STAY CALM, WE CAN'T--

GUUUUUUN!!

DALMY

TOYS

TWNG!

KPOW!

AAGH! NO!

DALMY

UHNNN...

PLEASE, SIR, ON THIS OF ALL NIGHTS--

TOYS

LOOK, SHOOTING AT ME WON'T GET YOU OUT OF HERE ANY FASTER, PAL. IN FACT--

LANTERN, NO! HE'LL--

GREEN LANTERN
ACTION FIGURE SET
BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T *WANT* TO GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS IS *MY* DOING. ALL OF IT. ME AND THE SUPER COMPUTER.
WE *ALL* STAY HERE UNTIL *I* DECIDE WE CAN GO.
YOU JUST LANDED YOURSELF ON SANTA'S "*NAUGHTY*" LIST IN A BIG WAY, BUDDY.
YEAH? WELL TELL THAT TO THESE HEATHENS! ALL THE PUSHING AND YELLING AND SPENDING--IT'S DIS-GUSTING!
IF THIS IS WHAT THEY CARE ABOUT, THEN THEY CAN JUST SPEND CHRIST-MAS *HERE!*
OKAY, EVERYBODY--IT'S ALL RIGHT-- PLEASE STAY CALM...
LANTERN...
OH, BUT NOT YOU--YOU'RE PURE, RIGHT? I MEAN, YOU SHOOT AT SUPERHEROES AND HOLD KNIVES TO THE THROATS OF NUNS, BUT *YOU* KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.
I KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN LIFE, YEAH.
AND WHAT'S THAT, HUH? ACCORD-ING TO *YOU*?
LOVE...

OH FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! MY LOVE LIFE'S NOT EXACTLY BLUE SKIES, AND YOU DON'T SEE ME HOLDING WHOLE MALLS HOSTAGE!

THOSE PEOPLE STUCK BETWEEN THE EXIT DOORS ARE GONNA RUN OUT OF *AIR* SOON...

IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE HAS MORE MONEY THAN ME... THAT'S THE ONLY REASON...

LANTERN!

K-THUNK!

MONEY, YOU KNOW! LIKE THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS! LIKE JUST BECAUSE I COULDN'T AFFORD TO GET HER THIS STUPID BRACELET SHE WANTED--

WHAT?

LITTLE... HELP...?

LIKE IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH I REALLY LOVE HER, YOU KNOW? ALL SHE WANTS IS WHAT HE CAN *BUY* HER...

SORRY, HERE YA GO. THAT SHOULD KEEP ANYONE FROM HURTING THEM-SELVES.

THIS LOSER ISN'T GOING TO COOPER-ATE ANYWAY. LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT THOSE DOORS.

I UNDERSTAND. IT SOUNDS VERY PAIN-FUL. AND YET, WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO TO THROW AWAY YOUR OWN WORTH AND MORALITY?

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO BE A *GOOD* PERSON IN A *BAD* WORLD! IT *HURTS* TOO MUCH!

BUT THIS WON'T HELP. *ALL* EXISTENCE, IN *ALL* POSSIBLE FORMS, IS SUFFERING.

THAT'S THE FIRST OF THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS OF BUDDHISM. I GREW UP IN AN ASHRAM WITH LOTS OF TIME TO TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF THEM.

THE IDEA IS TO RECOGNIZE THAT LIFE ITSELF IS IMPERMANENT, AND IT'S THE VERY CRAVING FOR PERMANENCE THAT MAKES YOU UNHAPPY.

YOU MEAN LIKE NOT DYING? I DON'T CARE ABOUT DYING.

I CARE ABOUT MAUREEN!

BUT IT'S THE SAME THING. YOU'RE TRYING TO HOLD ON TO SOMETHING THAT ISN'T YOURS TO POSSESS.

BELIEVE ME, I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE. THERE ARE THINGS WE DON'T HAVE THAT WE WANT. THINGS WE LOSE THAT WE WANT BACK.

YOU'VE GOT TRY TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE PRESENT.

THE PRESENT? BUT THAT STUPID BRACELET RUINED *MY LIFE.*

NO, NO--THE *PRESENT.* RIGHT MINDFULNESS. HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU.

OH-OKAY...

IN BUDDHISM, THE DAGGER CAN BE THOUGHT OF AS A SYMBOL FOR OVER-COMING NEGATIVE FORCES.

YEAH? SO?

SO... NOW, IN THE PRESENT--

-- THE BALANCE HAS SHIFTED AND NEGATIVE FORCES HAVE BEEN OVERCOME.

WHAT? THAT MAKES, LIKE, NO SENSE! GIVE ME MY KNIFE BACK!

SORRY. I CAN'T DO THAT.

HEY, YODA!

I THINK IT'S TIME TO LET MALL SECURITY AND A FEW GOOD ELECTRICIANS TAKE OVER...

...WE STILL HAVE SOME SHOPPING TO DO AND-- OH, MAN, I WASN'T EVEN THINKING!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I... I DON'T WANT ANYTHING, KYLE.

ONE OF THOSE BOWS FROM THE SPORTING GOODS DEPARTMENT?

I HAVE A BOW.

A NEW QUIVER?

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH WHAT I HAVE.

I'M CONFUSED, KYLE. TELL ME AGAIN WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THESE PRESENTS IS SUPPOSED TO BE?

IT'S--SO--TO--TO, YOU KNOW...LIKE, THE FRIENDS THING, 'CAUSE WE'RE PALS, *UH*--IT'S TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I WAS, LIKE, THINKING ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?

WHY NOT JUST SAY SO? TO ME AND TO THE REST OF THE JLA.

INSTEAD OF BUYING US GIFTS, JUST TAKE US EACH ASIDE ONE BY ONE AND TELL US THAT YOU APPRECIATE OUR FRIENDSHIP.

NAH!

SO DID YOU SEE A MALL FLOOR PLAN ANY-WHERE? WE'VE STILL GOT AT LEAST SIX STORES TO HIT, THOUGH I'LL ADMIT I'M KIND OF STUCK ON SUPES. I WAS GONNA DRAW HIM A PICTURE OF KRYPTON, BUT I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO ASK WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE WITHOUT, YOU KNOW, TIPPING MY HAND, SO NOW I'M THINKING MAYBE SOME KIND OF ACTION-FIGURE-TOY-SET THING OR SOMETH...

SALE
SALE
SALE

Finis

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT, BUBBY?

IT IS THE SABBATH EVE, ***ZEISKEIT.***

BUT, BUBBY...

GORFINKEL'S

THE SABBATH COMES EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AT SUNDOWN AND THERE'S ***NEVER*** THIS MANY PEOPLE.

BUT IT IS ALSO ***HANNUKAH.*** MANY JEWS COME BACK TO THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD FROM PLACES FAR OUTSIDE GOTHAM.

DON'T THEY HAVE THEIR ***OWN*** TEMPLES?

YES THEY DO, DANNY. BUT ***THIS*** SYNAGOGUE IS SPECIAL TO THEM.

AND THEIR GIFTS ON THIS ***ONE*** DAY KEEP THE TEMPLE OPEN ALL YEAR.

A YEAR'S WORTH OF GENEROSITY IN ONE NIGHT, ***ZEISKEIT.***

AND THIS OIL, SYMBOLIZING THE MIRACLE OF CHANU--

NOBODY MOVE--

-- UH!

The House of Peace

CHUCK DIXON -- WRITER
DAVE TAYLOR - PENCILLER
WAYNE FAUCHER - INKER
NOELLE GIDDINGS - COLORIST
JOHN COSTANZA - LETTERER
SPECIAL THANKS TO
JORDAN B. GORFINKEL

-- AND NOBODY DIES!

THE OIL!

THE LAST OF THE OIL!

OUTTA MY WAY!

UFF!

GEDDOWN!

EVER 'BODY GET DOWN!

HE TOOK ALL OF THE GIFTS!

RABBI SCHWARTZ, ARE YOU--

NEVER MIND ABOUT ME-- THE OIL IS SPILLED.

HOW WILL I LIGHT THE LAMP BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE SABBATH AT SUNDOWN?

SUNDOWN ISN'T FOR ANOTHER FEW MINUTES. I'LL CALL THE ***POLICE***. THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO ***CATCH THIS THIEF***.

TO SEE THE MONEY RETURNED WOULD BE GOOD.

BUT HE TOOK SO MUCH ***MORE*** FROM US.

IT IS FOR-BIDDEN TO LIGHT A FIRE ON THE SABBATH!

WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LIGHT THE MENORAH.

ONLY ONE OF GOD'S ***MIRACLES*** COULD HELP US NOW.

DANNY! WHERE ARE YOU GO--

*"AND MIRACLES ARE HARD TO **COME BY** IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.*

STA-CHOW! STA-CHOW! STA-CHOW!

I ♡ THE BEEB!

WHUMP!

NAN'S CLIN

-- SHEL CHANUKAH.

AMEN!

NEIS GADOL HAYAH SHAHM-- TODAY WE COMMEMORATE A MIRACLE THAT HAPPENED LONG AGO-- AND ***TONIGHT.***

WE HAVE YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS RETURNED TO US SO THAT BETH SHALOM CAN SURVIVE UNTIL NEXT CHANUKAH.

AND, MORE IMPORTANT, WE HAVE SEEN A ***MIRACLE.***

YOU'RE THE MIRACLE, DANNY.

GCPD

AMEN!

END

PRESENT TENSE

YOU BRING NEWS?

PLEASE DON'T KILL ME, GREAT DARKSEID.

HE HAS GOTTEN PAST *ALL* THE PERIMETER DEFENSES...

THANK YOU...

FOR SPARING MY LIFE.

SATELLITE'S DISABLED...

FLYING PARA-DEMONS HELPLESS...

GROUND FORCES AND AIR MISSILES ARE INEFFECTIVE

HE'S HERE.

NO, GREAT DARKSEID...

ON THE PLANET SURFACE?

SO EASILY?

IN THIS ROOM.

YOU'RE MAKING IT TOUGHER TO GET HERE EACH CHRISTMAS, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT!

BUT WE EACH HAVE OUR DUTIES TO PERFORM, YOUNG FELLA...

AND I HAVE TO GO ABOUT MINE.

OHHH...

TCH-
TCH-
TCH-

The LIST

DEFINITELY NAUGHTY.

IT'S A LUMP OF COAL FOR YOU AGAIN.

DO NOT LET HIM LEAVE HERE ALIVE.

OOPS. GOTTA GO!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO

ZAP ZAP

HAPPY X-MAS

'Twas The Night Before Kwanzaa

THIS IS WHAT I'VE DONE TODAY.

I WENT TO MORNING SERVICES AT THE FREEDOM BAPTIST CHURCH. I WAS FEELING ALMOST HAPPY.

I CALLED MY WIFE-- MY *EX*-WIFE-- AT HER SISTER'S HOUSE. SHE COULDN'T COME TO THE PHONE.

I HELPED SERVE DINNER AT THE HOMELESS SHELTER.

I CALLED LYNN AGA.N. SHE HAD JUST LEFT.

I DELIVERED SOME FOOD BASKETS TO THE POOR.

I LEFT A MESSAGE ON LYNN'S MACHINE.

NOW I'M KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF THE ***ROYAL FAMILY'S*** PARTY CENTER.

MERRY CHRISTMAS...

...HO HO HO.

GEE, SPARKY, I DON'T THINK THEY *HEARD* THAT. WHY DON'T YOU BLOW UP SOMETHING *ELSE?*

PUT THE GUN AWAY, TOMMY.

IT'S CHRISTMAS.

WE GOT TO GO TO THE TOP *FLOOR*, MAN. THAT'S GOTTA BE WHERE THEY GOT MY *FAMILY.*

LET'S GIVE THEM A COUPLE MORE MINUTES, DEL.

I WANT THEM TO BE EVERY BIT AS AFRAID...

...AS YOU ARE.

DEL USED TO BE A *MEMBER* OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

HE CALLED HIMSELF *G-KOOL* BACK THEN...

WHEN WE FIRST MET, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST ANOTHER PUNK GANGSTER. IT TURNED OUT HE HAD SOMETHING ***MORE*** TO HIM.

HE ***BROKE*** WITH THE GANG TO KEEP A BUNCH OF BABY G'S FROM GETTING SLAUGHTERED.

I HELPED HIM AND HIS FAMILY GET OUT OF TOWN AND START A NEW LIFE.

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE HIM AGAIN...

OVER ***HERE***, SPARKY.

I'M EMBARRASSED ABOUT THIS, DETECTIVE COLAVITO. I DIDN'T GET ***YOU*** A PRESENT.

HAR, HAR... YER A REGULAR ***SINBAD***, AIN'T YOU?

ADELBERT'S WAITING BACK THERE.

...AND I KNOW I NEVER WANT TO SEE ANYONE ***ELSE*** LOOK THAT DESPERATE AND THAT FRIGHTENED.

ESPECIALLY ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

WE JUST WANTED TO SNEAK BACK INTO TOWN TO SPEND THE HOLIDAYS WITH NIKKI'S MOMMA.

JUST FOR ***KWANZAA***.

KWANZAA? THAT'S LIKE "***BLACK***" CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?

I HEARD THIS DETECTIVE AND YOU WAS ***TIGHT***, SO I CALLED HIM. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

YOU DID THE R GHT TH.NG, DEL.

SO MUCH FOR A NICE CHRISTMAS DiNNER.

IT'S NOT A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, TOMMY. IT'S MORE LIKE A CELEBRATION OF BLACK PEOPLE AND THEIR HISTORY.

LITTLE MARCUS JUST TURNED FIVE. N.KKI AND I WANTED H M TO REALLY GET INTO IT THIS YEAR.

KWANZAA IS A TIME FOR ***FAMILIES***... AND THE ONLY FAM.LY EITHER NIKKI OR I GOT IS IN THIS HOOD.

SOMEBODY FROM THE GANG MUST HAVE SPOTTED US GETTING OFF THE ***BUS***.

THEY BEAT THE ***CRAP*** OUT OF G-KOOL, THEN TOOK NIKKI AND THE KID. EVEN TOLD HIM ***WHERE*** THEY WERE TAKING THEM.

I'M TH NKING THE ROYALS ARE PLANNING TO MAKE A ***POINT*** HERE.

I KNOW THE LAYOUT OF THAT BUILD NG.

LET'S GO SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER.

THE ROYAL FAMILY IS THE CURRENT REIGNING DRUG GANG IN THE BRICK CITY. THEY THINK THEY OWN THE HOOD.

DAMN! IT'S HIM!

I'M THEIR PERSONAL REALITY CHECK.

KRAZAP

AAGG

UHH...

YAAHHH

DAMN. I DIDN'T WANT TO *HURT* ANYONE, ESPECIALLY NOT TODAY. THAT'S NOT WHAT CHRISTMAS *OR* KWANZAA IS ABOUT.

SHOOT THE--

GET YOUR SORRY BUTT OUTTA HERE AND TO A HOSPITAL, YOU STUPID--

I *AIN'T* DOING PAPERWORK ON CHRISTMAS.

THAT'S *NOT* HOW WE'RE GOING TO PLAY THIS, DEL.

HAVE A LITTLE *FAITH.*

FAITH IS ONE OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF ***KWANZAA***, DEL. THE ONES YOU'RE TRYING TO LIVE ***UP*** TO.

BUT...

YEAH...UNITY, SELF-DETERMINATION, COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY, COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS, PURPOSE IN LIFE, CREATIVITY, AND FAITH. SEVEN PRINCIPLES, SEVEN DAYS OF KWANZAA.

IT'S CHRISTMAS. BEAT IT BEFORE I DECIDE TO HAUL YOU IN.

WHAT? I ***READ*** A LOT.

LET'S FINISH THIS NOW.

DAMN STRAIGHT.

YOU PLANNING ON JOINING US, TOMMY?

YEAH, BUT I'M ***CATHOLIC***.

I'M KEEPING ***MY*** GUN.

OOFFF!!!

DEL'S FAMILY WAS BEING HELD ON THE TOP FLOOR, FIVE FLIGHTS UP. I FIGURED THERE WOULD BE MAYBE A DOZEN GANGBANGERS BETWEEN US AND THEM.

WE STAYED CLOSE TO THE ROYALS ON OUR WAY UP. THEY COULDN'T SHOOT WITHOUT HITTING EACH OTHER.

BLAM!

SON OF A...

KRAK

MOST OF THEM WERE SMART ENOUGH TO FIGURE THAT OUT. TOMMY TOOK *PARTICULAR* EXCEPTION TO THOSE WHO WEREN'T.

WHUMP!

TOMMY . .

RELAX, SPARKY. HE LANDED ON SOME-THING SOFT.

THE TOP FLOOR OF THE BUILDING WAS ONE LARGE ROOM. I WENT IN FIRST.

HOLD *UP* A MINUTE, M'MAN. LET SPARKY TAKE OUT THE REALLY *BIG* GUY.

BIG GUY?

THERE'S ***ALWAYS*** A REALLY BIG GUY.

IT JUST SEEMS TO ***WORK*** THAT WAY.

LET..

THEM...

GO!

THIS AIN'T ***NONE*** OF YOUR CONCERN, BROTHER.

GET GONE OR SHE'S *DEAD*.

MOMMA!

I'M THE ONE YOU WANT, RAY-MAN. *I'M* THE ONE WHO QUIT THE FAMILY.

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD PAY THE *PRICE*.

DEL...

YOU GOT *THAT* RIGHT, ADELBERT, BUT MAYBE YOU'RE FORGETTIN' ABOUT THE *INTEREST*.

>OWW<

THINK *AGAIN*.

GOOD CHOICE.

YOU WANT THEM?

NOT PARTICU-LARLY.

SPREAD THE WORD. NO ONE HASSLES ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEAVE THE FAMILY. ***NO ONE***.

KWANZAA ONLY COMES ONCE A ***YEAR***.

NEXT TIME, IT'S FOR ***REAL***.

SEVEN DAYS AND A CAB RIDE LATER, JEFFERSON PIERCE IS KNOCKING ON TOMMY COLAVITO'S FRONT DOOR.

DON'T ASK ME WHY.

HI, I'M...AH...A ***FRIEND*** OF BLACK LIGHTNING'S. HE ASKED ME TO DELIVER THIS KWANZAA PRESENT TO ***MARCUS***.

OKAY, THIS IS A ***GOOD*** THING. AT LEAST I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ***NUTS***.

I COULDN'T TELL YOU...

ANY MORE, I SUSPECT, THAN ***TOMMY*** COULD TELL YOU WHY HE DECIDED HIS OWN HOME WAS THE SAFEST PLACE FOR DEL AND HIS FAMILY TO CELEBRATE ***KWANZAA***.

I CAN'T ***WAIT*** TO MEET HIS WIFE.

WHEN I CAME TO THIS CITY, IT WAS BECAUSE I ***BELIEVED*** THAT HELPING A COMMUNITY, A FAMILY, OR A CHILD--

--WAS AS IMPORTANT AS SAVING THE ***WORLD***.

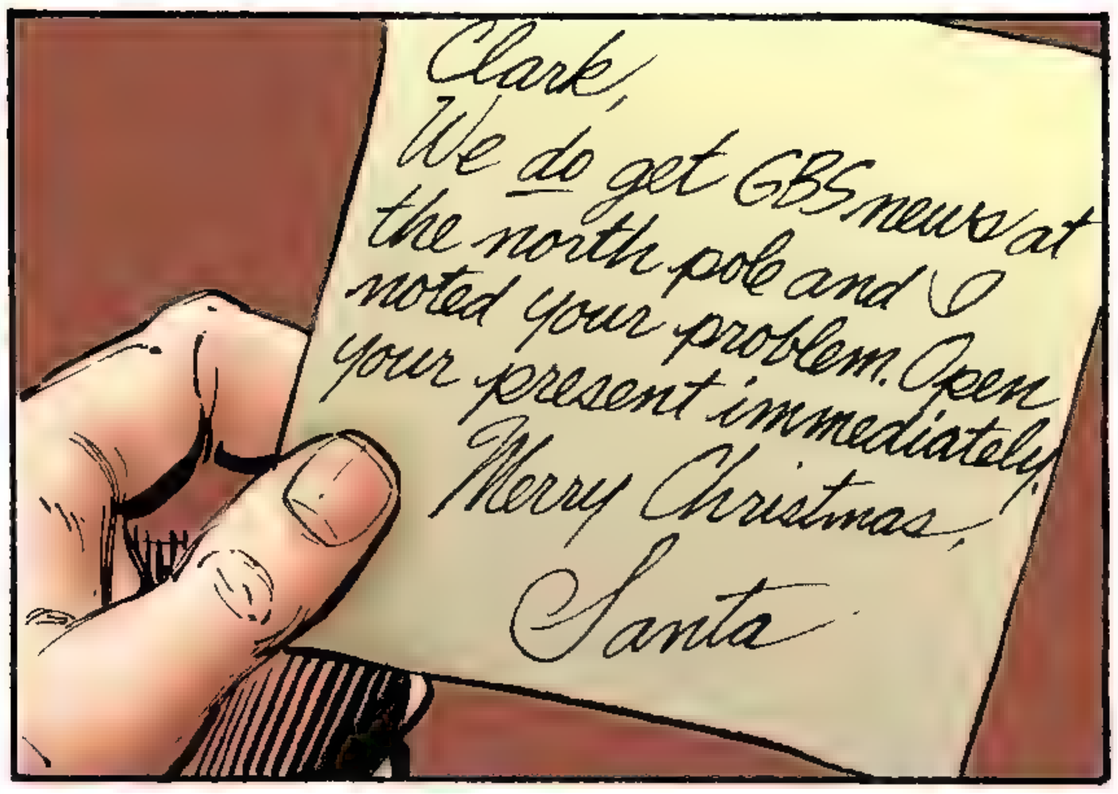
THAT'S MARCUS GARVEY. HE WAS A GREAT AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADER IN THE 1900S...

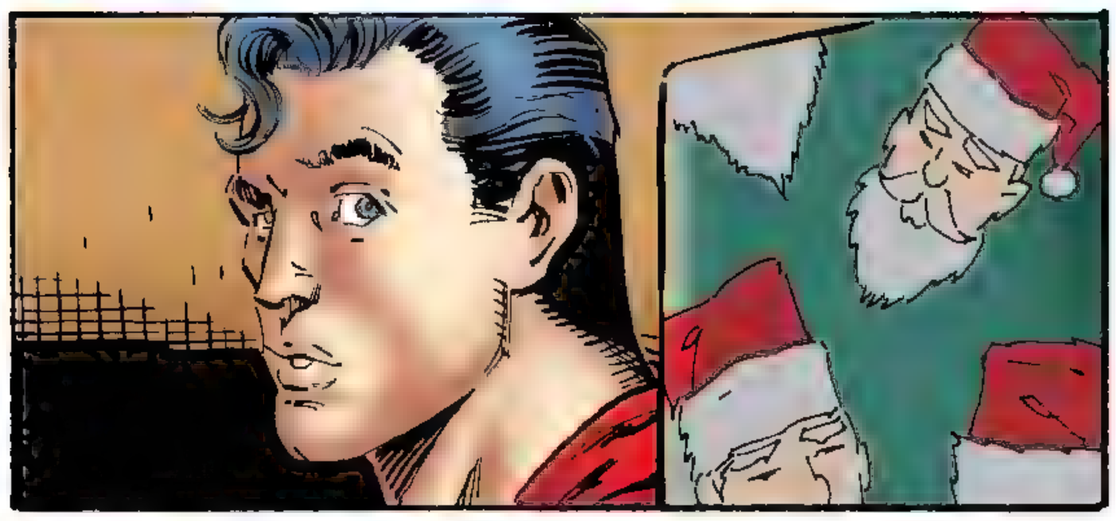
I STILL DO.

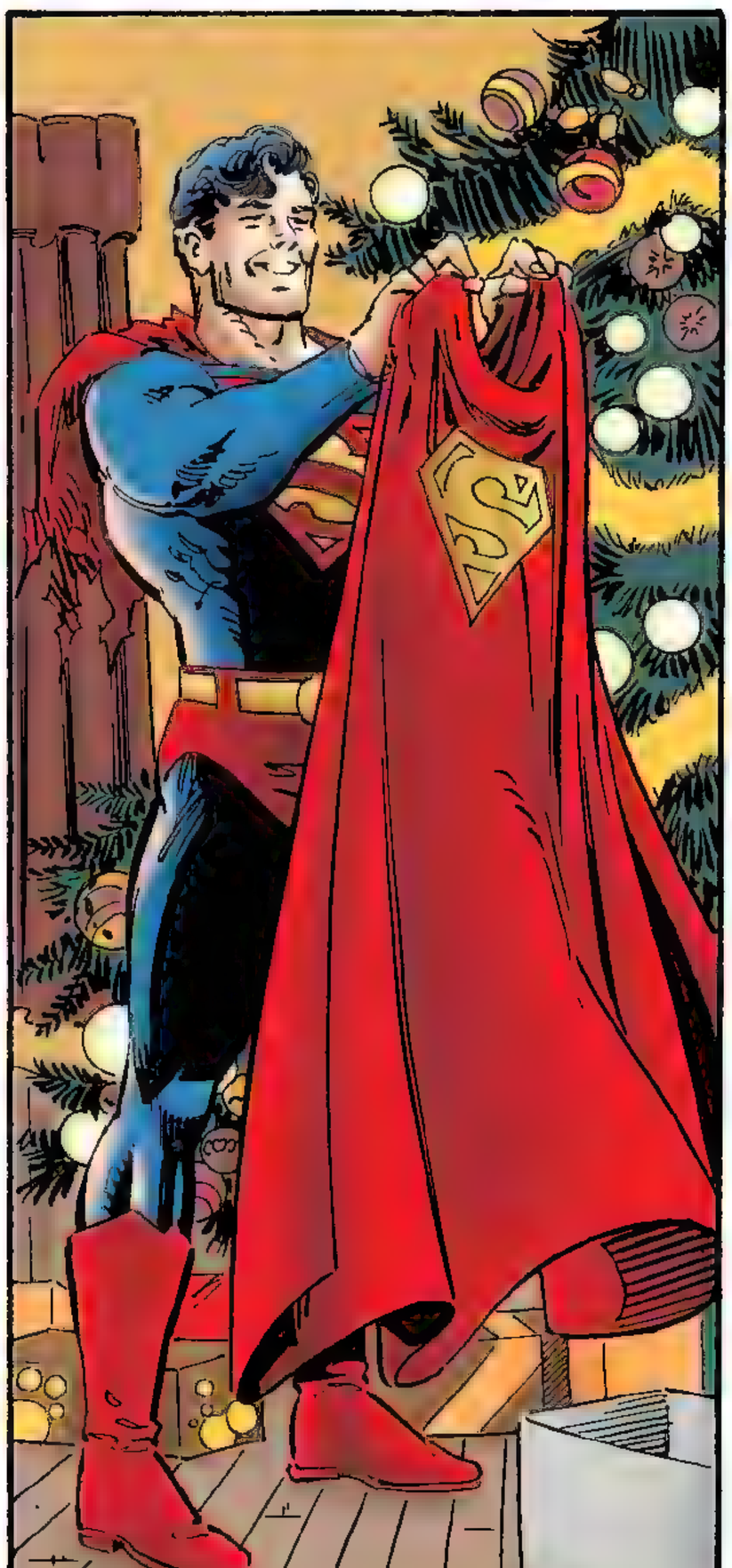
THE END.

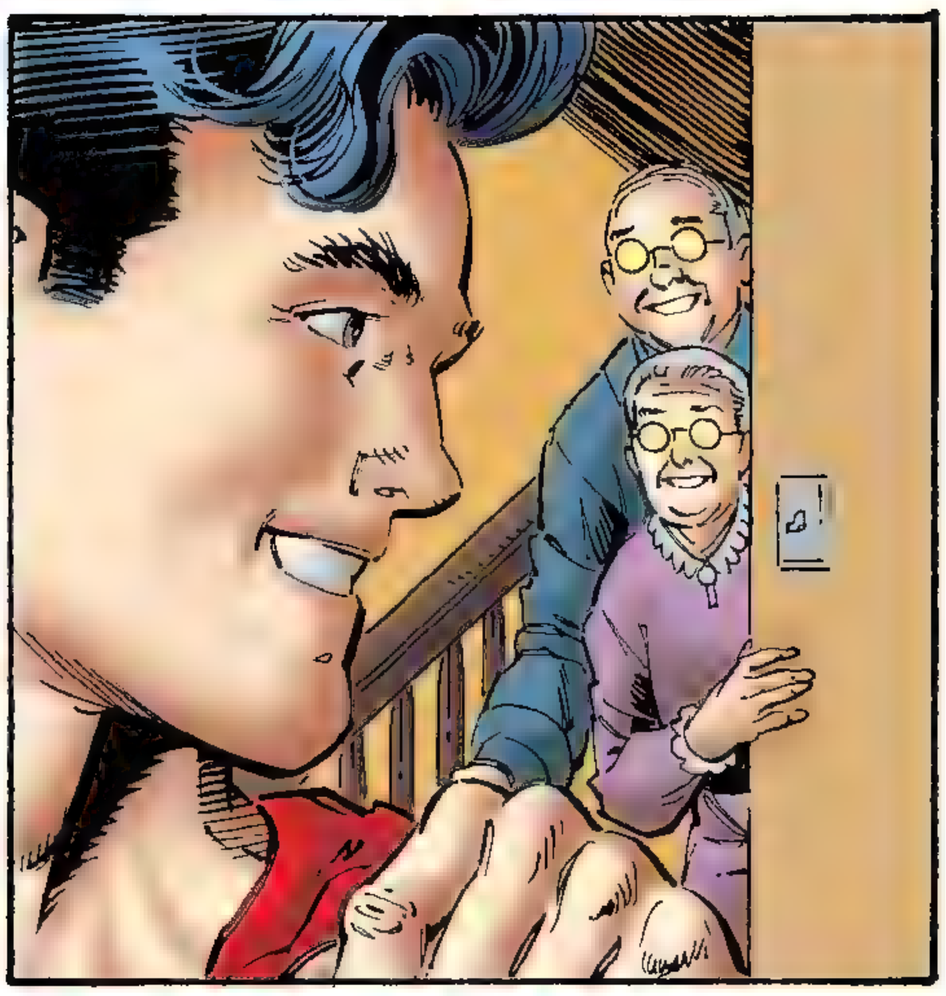
LEXCORP

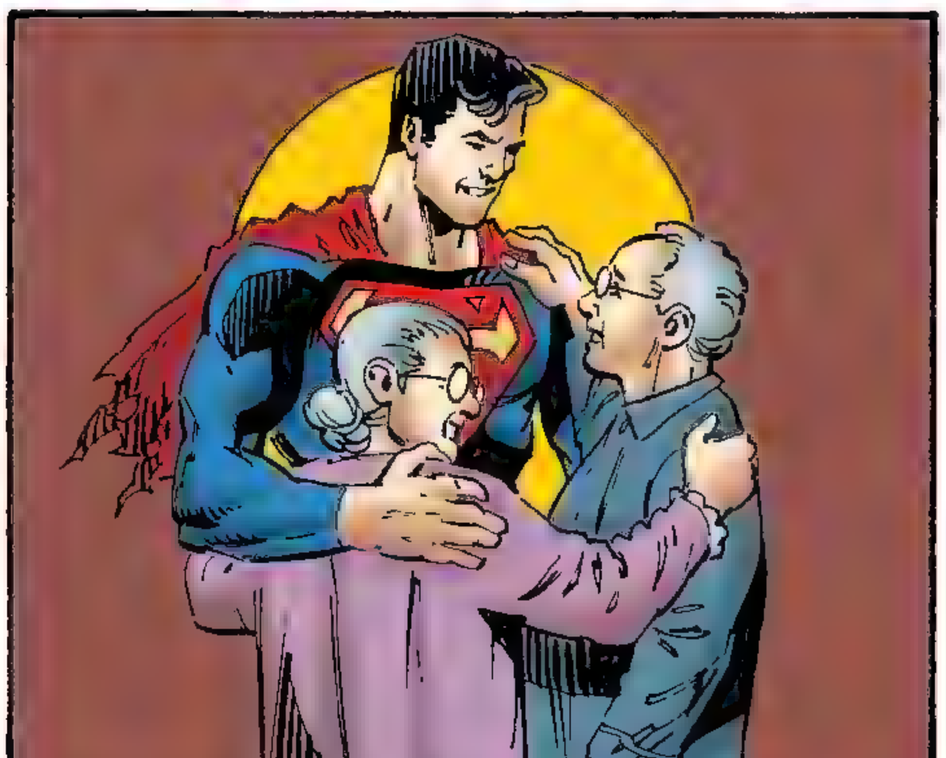
DAILY PLANET
CHRISTMAS EVE EDITION
ROBOT TERRORIZES EAST COAST











DAN JURGENS *-writer/penciller*
BRETT BREEDING *-inker*
JASON WRIGHT *-colorist*
JOHN COSTANZA *-letterer*

Christmas Eve, 1944... GOTHAM CITY, U.S.A...

BUY BONDS

FOUR

THE WHOLE TOWN LOOKS LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE...

...six months ago, Ike threw a one-two punch at the paperhanger with the biggest land/sea ASSAULT the world's ever SEEN--

... ALL LIT UP-- BUT IT'S STILL NOT THE SAME AS BEING HOME WITH THE FOLKS.

AND IF I CAN'T SPEND CHRISTMAS AT HOME, I SURE AS HELL WISH I WAS ON A DESTROYER IN HARM'S WAY-- INSTEAD OF A DRY-DOCKED FLATTOP.

...but don't tell THAT to all the American kids still DYING for their country over there...

THIS SURE AS HECK ISN'T PEORIA...

... AND IT SURE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CHRISTMAS TO ME.

'Most EVERYBODY figures victory's a foregone CONCLUSION...

BEEP BEEP BEEP

TAXI

...or over here.

SAILOR-- BEWARE,

...NO POINT IN BUYING THE FARM IN TOWN.

HUH...?

THANK YOU, SIR.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO TO THIS ADDRESS-- AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

NEW YORK'S got the STAGEDOOR... LOS ANGELES'S got the HOLLYWOOD...GOTHAM CITY has the JUSTICE SOCIETY CANTEEN. They've ALL got a long line to get in...

Y'THINK WE'LL GET TO MEET LIBERTY BELLE?

JUSTICE SOCIETY CANTEEN

HAPPY HOLIDAY

...but the JSA'S the only one with the WILDCAT working the DOOR.

NAH-- SHE'S IN WASHINGTON.

IT'S THE BLACK CANARY I WANNA GLIM. NOW THERE'S ONE SERIOUS PIECE OF--

HEY-- NONE OF THAT KINDA TALK IN HERE, FLYBOY--

--BACK O' THE LINE-- AND HEY, SAILOR-- YER UP NEXT.

GOOD WORK, ENSIGN--

SIR?

HOLDING OUR PLACE IN LINE.

RIGHT-- SO BEAT IT.

JUST A SEC, YOU CATS--

--HEY ENSIGN--

-- THESE BIRDS ON THE LEVEL?

YEAH, SURE...

WELL, IN DAT CASE, GETCHERSELF IN DERE TO KEEP THOSE TWO IN LINE, WHY DON'TCHA?

The Wildcat, A.K.A. TED GRANT, was shipping OUT the next morning...

EVERYBODY was there that Christmas Eve.

Who'd've guessed the NEWSBOY LEGION'd all graduate from Stanford in ten years, to create the next generation of WEAPONS to fight the next generation of WARS?

And LIBERTY BELLE... I wish I'd spent more time with her that night.

NOBODY knew she'd marry JOHNNY QUICK and give birth to a new generation of Hero.

But ENOUGH OF the future. Like I said, it's CHRISTMAS.

And what about our lonely ENSIGN?

I Left My Heart at the Justice Society Canteen

written by HOWARD CHAYKIN
with thanks to JAMES KELTON
Illustrated by RICK BURCHETT
colored by RICK TAYLOR
lettered by JOHN COSTANZA

Dedicated to all the Golden Age greats who invented the very language of comics.

Still *DAZZLED*, he watches the two lieutenants lose a muscle-flexing contest with the *GUARDIAN*.

PAY UP, YOU TWO--YOU *LOSE* FAIR AND SQUARE.

OKAY, SAILOR--YOU'RE UP *NEXT*.

NAME YOUR *CHALLENGE*, ENSIGN--

BUT *I* DON'T--

HEY--IT'S FOR *WAR* RELIEF.

WELL, IN *THAT* CASE--

--KNOT *TYING*, SIR.

IT'S *YOUR* FUNERAL, KIDDO.

Not *QUITE*...

...the kid from *PEORIA* didn't waste *ANY* time.

GOOD *GOING*, SIR--SHOW THE LUBBER.

SORRY, SIR--

DON'T BE *RIDIC*, ENSIGN. YOU BEAT ME FAIR AND *SQUARE*--

NOW LET'S *SEE* IF WE CAN ROUND YOU UP A *PRIZE*--

--AND WHILE I'M *LOOKING*--

SOMEONE

TAIKED

-- SAY HI TO THE GREEN LANTERN.

A PLEASURE, ENSIGN.

PLEASURE'S ALL MINE, SIR-- AND THAT'S A FACT.

I WON'T SAY IT.

SAY WHAT?

It was Green Lantern's POWER RING that did a lot of the work to make the canteen POSSIBLE...

...but even constant PAINS in the heinie like JOHNNY THUNDER did their bit...

U.

ME?

NOT YOU-- U.

...over and OVER again...

I guess SOMEBODY liked it...

...or maybe wartime just made for EASIER audiences and CHEAPER dates.

I THINK I FOUND A PRIZE WORTHY OF YOU--

GEE, SIR-- IT REALLY WASN'T NECESSARY--

CARE TO DANCE?

BUT IF YOU INSIST...

The Black Canary was a KNOCKOUT-- From her FISTS to her FIGURE...

...you can't BLAME Peoria for going just a little GAGA.

SO WHAT'S YOUR ASSIGNMENT, ENSIGN? GUNNERY OFFICER? BRIDGE?

I WISH--

--I'M A LAUNDRY OFFICER ON A DRY-DOCKED FLATTOP.

I'LL BET YOU'VE LAUNDERED SOME VERY IMPORTANT UNIFORMS IN YOUR TIME.

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT-- I'VE HANDLED ENOUGH DRESS WHITES TO CURTAIN THIS WHOLE CANTEEN.

DRESS WHITES...

BEG YOUR PARDON...?

The kid may have been stuck in the LAUNDRY, but he ALREADY had the instincts of a DETECTIVE.

NOTHING...

THAT LIEUTENANT'S GOT ALL THE WRONG RATINGS ON THE SLEEVE...

AND NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, SO DID THE OTHER JERK HE WAS WITH.

DANGER was afoot in the canteen--and for all the SUPERHEROES in attendance that festive night, it took a teenaged LAUNDRY OFFICER from central Illinois to put it TOGETHER.

And speaking of SUPER-HEROES, in the kitchen...

...Ma Hunkel, A.K.A. the RED TORNADO, was whipping up dinner for the TROOPS.

IF YOUSE PUNKS DON'T GET OUT OF MY KITCHEN, YOU'RE GONNA END UP ON THE MENU--

--AND AS FOR YOU, ATOM, SOMEONE'S GOTTA CLEAN UP THAT MESS.

Ma made a bigger difference in her CIVILIAN identity than she EVER did in her long johns. Just ask SCRIBBLY.

ATOM DO THIS--ATOM DO THAT... I ASK YOU--

--WHERE'S DOCTOR FATE WHEN SOMEONE'S GOTTA CLEAN THE TOILET, HUH?

When he was out of EARSHOT, those of us who KNEW the Atom always AGREED on one thing--his achilles heel WASN'T his size--

--it was his EGO.

KLOP

THE LAST THING WE NEED'S COMPANY--

HOW LONG'S IT GONNA TAKE TO SET THIS THING?

NO TIME FLAT--

--THEN THIS PLACE AND EVERYONE IN IT'S GONNA BE FLAT FOR A LONG TIME.

NOT SO FAST, SIR--

--OR SHOULD I BE SPRECHEN SIE THE DEUTSCH HERE?

YOU'RE OUT OF LINE, ENSIGN--

I COULD SAY THE SAME THING FOR YOUR HASHMARKS--

-- BUT YOU WOULDN'T *GET* IT *ANYWAY.*

The kid was good-- *DAMNED* good--

--but the saboteurs were *DESPERATE.*

WHAK!

YOWWWW!!

FINISH HIM *OFF* AND LET'S GET *OUT* OF--

UNNNGGHHH...!

DON'T YOU BOYS KNOW IT'S NOT *POLITE* TO ARGUE WHEN A *LADY'S* PRESENT?

ARRRNNNGGHHH!

I DON'T THINK *EITHER* OF THESE GUYS WENT TO *OCS.*

And *THAT'S* where I came in...

...Just to make sure that little masterpiece of German engineering was going to stay in ONE piece.

KLIK

HOW'D YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS WHAT, ENSIGN?

TRUTH IS, I DIDN'T--

--BUT I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OFFICER'S DRESS WHITES TO KNOW THESE GUYS WEREN'T OFF ANY SHIP IN THIS MAN'S NAVY.

GOOD WORK, SON--

I ONLY WISH YOU'D DONE IT SOONER.

LISTEN, CANARY--

--WHY DON'T YOU AND NAVY GET BACK TO THE PARTY WHILE ME AND HOURMAN FINISH CLEANING UP HERE?

HE'S RIGHT.

LET'S TAKE A WALK, ENSIGN--

--AND JUST WAIT'LL THE REST OF THE GUYS HEAR WHAT A HERO YOU ARE.

UHH, ABOUT THAT--

--WHAT DO YOU SAY WE JUST LET IT RIDE--

--WE'VE ALL BEEN HEROES FOR THE PAST COUPLE O' YEARS-- AND IT'S NOT OVER YET.

The kid was a NATURAL...

♪Silent night...♫

And he was RIGHT, OF course.

♪...Holy night...♫

EVERYBODY there was a HERO.

We ALL cried a little that night...

For the PAST, and the loved ones we'd lost...

♫...All is calm...♩

...for the PRESENT--all we really have, when you think about it...

...And for the FUTURE--about which we can't do a damned thing.

♫...All is bright♩

SO ENSIGN JAMES GORDON was right on the money.

Even BEFORE he got out of Naval blues and put on the uniform of a Police officer, he KNEW...

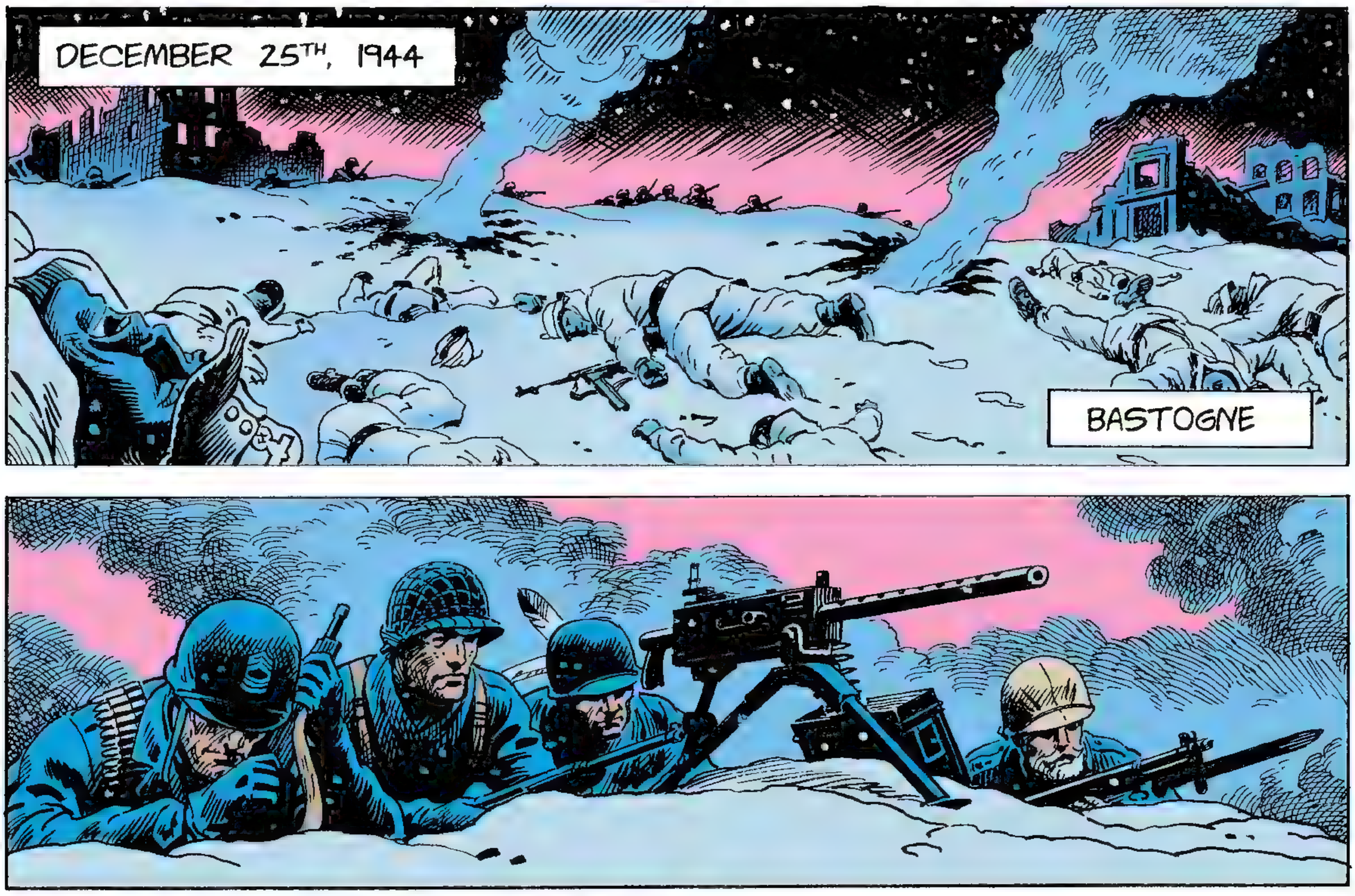
...SOME seasons just bring out the hero in EVERYBODY--costumed, UNIFORMED or NOT.

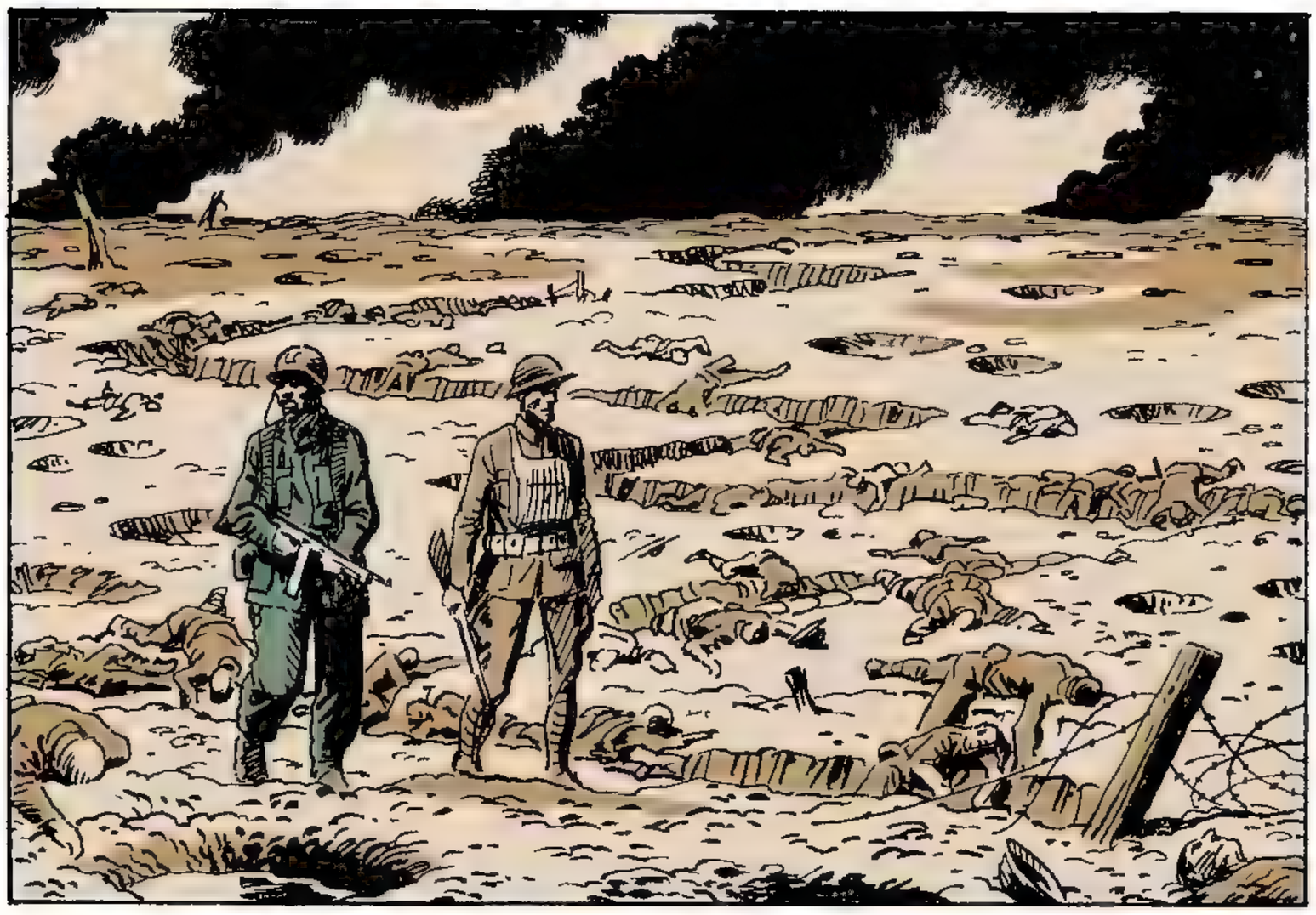
JUSTICE SOCIETY CANTEEN

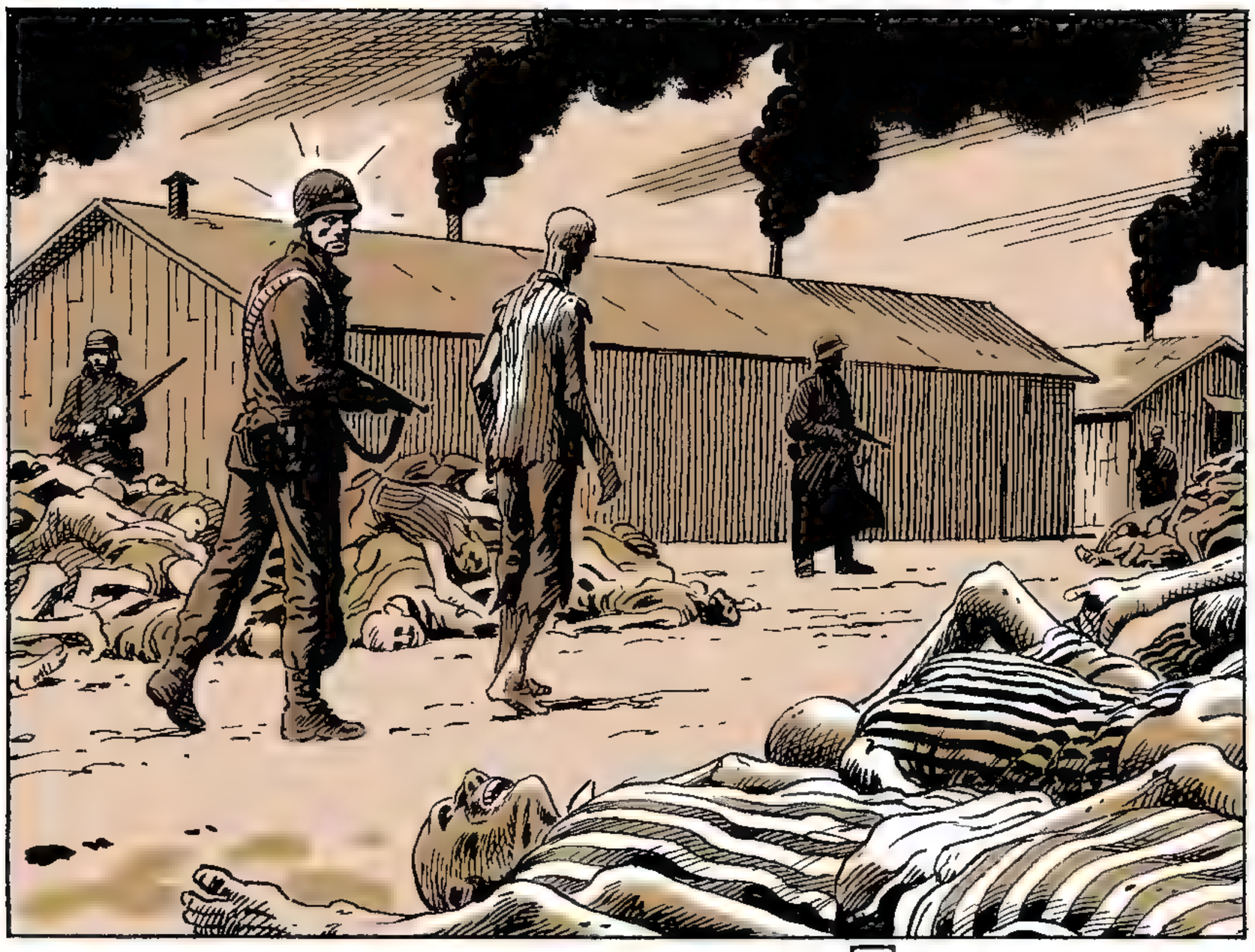
HAPPY HOLIDAY

The End

SGT. ROCK IN: "A Christmas Carol"







FRANKLIN J. ROCK
MSTR. SGT.
US ARMY

THE OLD LANE

I'VE GOT IT FROM HERE, NIGHTWING.

I'VE BEEN IN GOTHAM HALF AN HOUR AND ALREADY I'VE OVERSTAYED MY WELCOME?

NOT AT ALL. BUT CONSIDERING THE DATE, I SUSPECT YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE TO BE.

WELL, ACTUALLY, YEAH, I-- WAITAMINUTE. HOW DID YOU--

DON'T LET ME HOLD YOU UP. WE'LL SEE YOU LATER THIS EVENING.

IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE TELL HER I SAID HELLO.

BRIAN STELFREEZE-storyteller & penciller
DEVIN K. GRAYSON-dialogue assist
KARL STORY-inker
LEE LOUGHRIDGE-colorist
JOHN COSTANZA-letterer

DING

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

Subj: Dinner
Date: 12-31 19:25.34 EST
From: GUESSWHO
To: ORACLE

ORACLE-
So what are you doing tonight?

–an admirer

VIRTUALLY YOURS
GUESSWHO@BAT.com has sent you a virtual card! To retrieve, go to GOTHAMGREETINGS@netbus.com
Your claim number is 44372

ORACLE

Just what I told you before staying in!

TRANSMITTING

a virtual card! To retrieve, go to GOTHAMGREETINGS@netbus.com
Your claim number is 44372

BRRING

HELLO?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME. I'M THINKING WE GO CHINESE.

I'M THINKING WE DON'T.

NOK NOK NOK

KLIK

YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO EAT ALL THIS MYSELF? MEET ME UPSTAIRS?

THIS REALLY IS AN INCREDIBLE CITY, ISN'T IT? I MEAN, YOU CAN'T HELP WANTING TO PROTECT IT.

IS THAT WHY YOU WERE LATE?

LATE? HOW COULD I BE LATE WHEN YOU TOLD ME NOT TO COME AT ALL?

LIKE THIS WAS GOING TO BE THE FIRST YEAR YOU LISTENED.

I JUST FIGURED I HEARD YOU WRONG.

MM HM. SO, I SUPPOSE LISTENING IS NO LONGER AN IMPORTANT SKILL FOR BRILLIANT, YOUNG DETECTIVES TO PRACTICE?

HEY, PRACTICE DOESN'T MAKE--OOPS.

UH-HUH! BACK YOURSELF INTO A CORNER THERE, MR. PERFECT. WHEN HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANYTHING WRONG?

UMM... DID I EVER TELL YOU THAT I USED TO THINK "*MISTLE-TOE*" WAS A VILLAIN? SOME GUY WHO SHOT MISSILES FROM HIS FEET OR SOMETHING.

I WAS GONNA REFUSE TO MIX IT UP WITH HIM JUST BECAUSE OF HIS STUPID NAME.

EXCUSE ME, MISS "*I DID BATTLE WITH KILLER MOTH*"?

OKAY, OKAY. *NEITHER* OF US HAS DISCRETION.

THIS FROM A GUY WHO USED TO FIGHT CRAZY QUILT?

HOW 'BOUT YOU? YOU'VE GOT AN EIDETIC MEMORY. WHEN HAVE *YOU* EVER MISHEARD ANYTHING?

HAVING PHOTOGRAPHIC RECALL OF EVERYTHING YOU READ HARDLY MEANS YOU DON'T *HEAR* THINGS INCORRECTLY.

NO, IT JUST MEANS YOU'RE INCREDIBLY SMART AND YOU NEVER MAKE MISTAKES. ADMIT IT, YOU NEVER GET ANYTHING WRONG.

OH, PLEASE. I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE ABOUT HOW WHEN I WAS A KID I USED TO WONDER WHAT NEW YEAR'S HAD TO DO WITH A SONG ABOUT AN "*OLD LANE SIGN.*"

YEAH, I REMEMBER. I USED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE YOU BLUSH JUST BY SINGING, "*SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT...*"

YOU CAN *STOP* NOW, THANK YOU. IT'S JUST THAT I FELT SO STUPID WHEN I FOUND OUT.

THOUGH, I TELL YOU, I NOW REALIZE THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SUCH A BAD SONG.

THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW TIMES SINCE THEN WHEN I WOULD HAVE GIVEN ANYTHING TO TAKE A STROLL DOWN THAT OLD LANE.

YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

NO. YOU DON'T.

I-I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP. JUST-- SPEAKING OF MISTAKES...

BARBARA... BARBARA, HEY, I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WASN'T A *MISTAKE*. WHAT DID YOU DO, OPEN A DOOR?

I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME. BATMAN WOULD'VE--

LISTEN I... I GOT YOU SOMETHING.

IT'S NOTHING MUCH. I JUST WANTED TO, YOU KNOW, THANK YOU.

FOR WHAT?

NOTHING.

EVERYTHING.

genuine Elvis Mistletoe! Good enough for a King's Kiss!

BABS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, I--

LISTEN, IT'S GETTING LATE AND I'M TIRED. I DON'T THINK I'LL MAKE IT 'TIL MIDNIGHT.

OH, OKAY, LEMME JUST GRAB--

I CAN REACH EVERYTHING IN HERE JUST FINE, DICK. DON'T WORRY, REALLY. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, OKAY?

NO, I MEANT--

--UH, SURE, I'VE GOT SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO GO DO ANYWAY. GOOD NIGHT.

OLD LANE NE

FRANK·LLOYD·WRIGHT

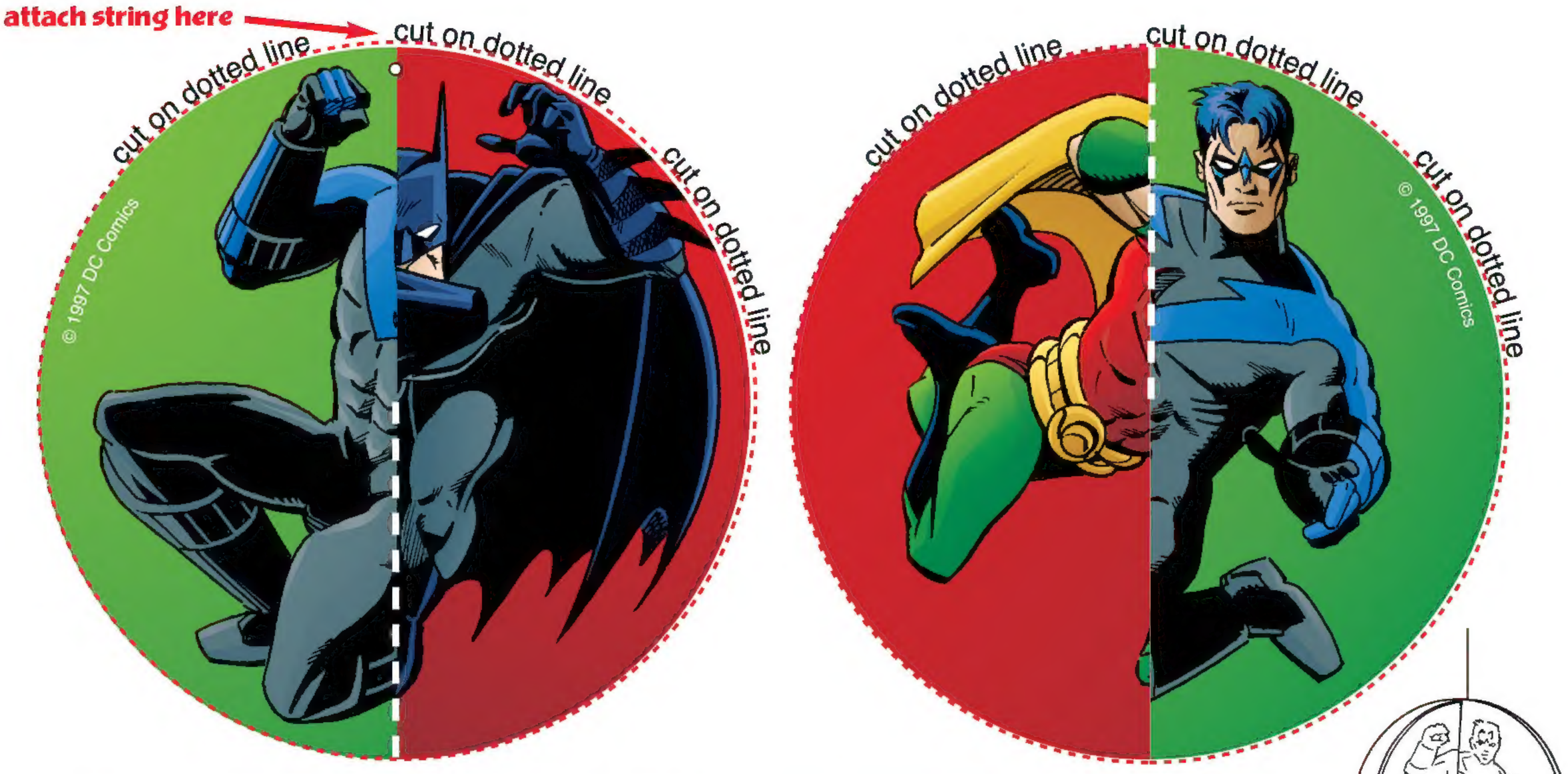
Happy New Year's,
Barbara —
Love, Rick

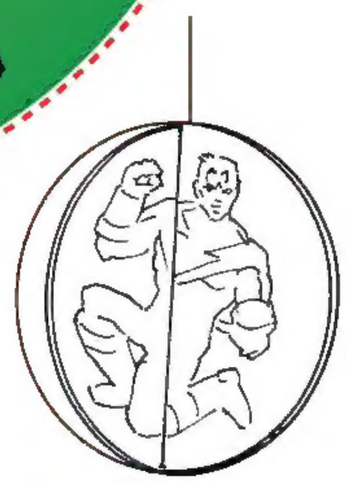
CRAY

END

FUN PAGE!

directions to make a hanging ornament and gliders that really fly!





Directions for making the hanging ornament: 1. Cut out round shapes. 2. Cut at dotted line halfway through ornament. 3. Slide the two shapes together to make complete figures of Batman, Robin, Nightwing and Batgirl! 4. Make a small hole where arrow is pointing (see above). Attach string or dental floss. Now you can hang it in a festive location!

cut cut

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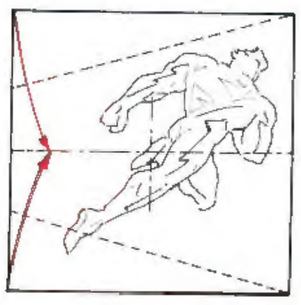
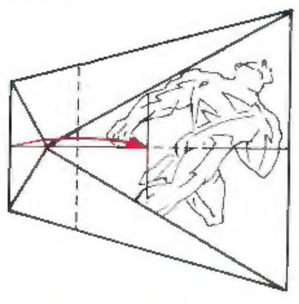
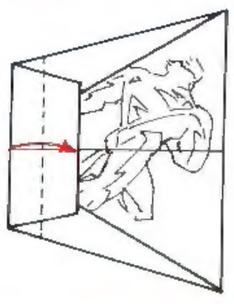
Directions for making the two individual gliders: 1. Cut out either Superman or Green Lantern.



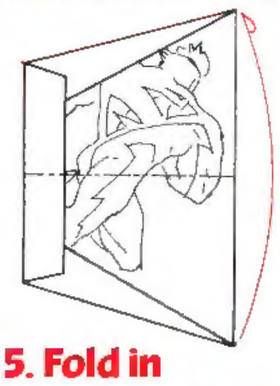
2. Fold paper to make one crease. Fold the other way to make second crease. Open up the paper. Fold the top and bottom left corners to the center line.



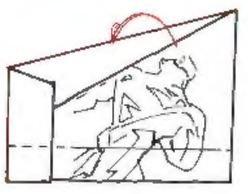
3. Fold the left edge to the center...



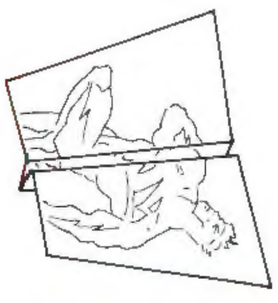
4. ...and fold again to the center.



5. Fold in half behind from bottom to top.

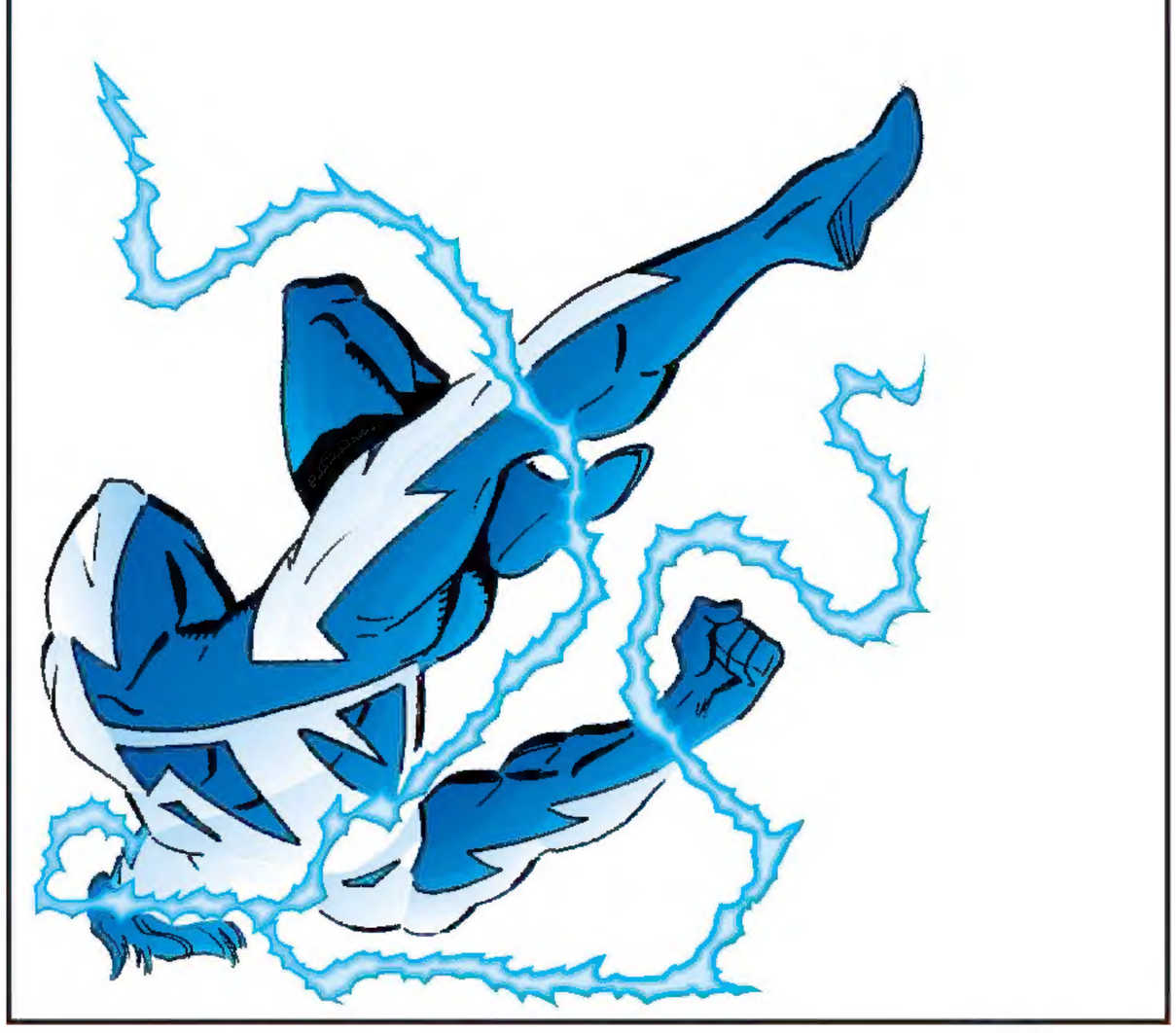


6. Fold the wings to stand out evenly in front and behind.



7. The glider is completed! Let it fly!

Have a great holiday!
With peace on earth, good will to all!



FUN PAGE!

You can fold this if you hold this page up to a mirror!